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V. J. Day
2/1/01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Martin L. Hage Examiner: A. Johnstone
Serial No. 09/305,586 Group Art Unit: 1733
Filed: May 5, 1999 Docket No. 589.015US1
Title: **TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE LAYER ON POLYMERIC ARTICLES**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed on September 29, 2000.

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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the paragraph bridging Page 9, line 28 through page 10, line 10 and replace it with the following paragraph:

a! The ophthalmic lens blanks do not have to be perfectly smooth or planar or curved on each surface to benefit from the practice of the present invention. The lens surfaces may have recessed or protruding features on them such as bifocal power segments, tabs, indentations, grooves, and the like which could not be used with a peel-apart system, as that would not conform to these features easily and would be difficult to remove. This is another significant advantage to the use of a coating solution to form a solvent removable protective layer. Mild agitation of the wash solution would easily remove the protective coating from the edges of the features, while a strippable or peelable protective layer would neither conform easily to significant features on a surface of the lens (therefore nor offering complete protection) or else be removed with significant difficulty if the peel-apart film did conform precisely with the features. The process may be practiced wherein the first solvent used to remove the protective layer is different from the solvent (the coating solvent) used to coat the protective layer onto the surface of the lens.
